



COMDTINST 6220.3

3 NOV 1989

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 6220.3

Subj: How to Respond to Host Nation Queries Concerning Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

Ref: (a) COMDTINST 6220.1(series), Management of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection in the Coast Guard

1. PURPOSE. To establish guidance for responding to host nation concerns over the testing of Coast Guard personnel for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).
2. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. No directives are affected by this instruction.
3. BACKGROUND. Host nations occasionally express concern that visiting or deployed U.S. military personnel may spread HIV, the virus which causes AIDS. Some host nations may continue to use the AIDS threat as a basis for opposing the presence of U.S. units overseas. In addition, application of host nation regulations on HIV screening of aliens could affect Coast Guard personnel.
4. DISCUSSION. Despite potential host nation pressures, we must adhere to the following principles:
 - a. Protection of U.S. sovereignty. Coast Guard ships, aircraft, facility crew lists, and health records are not subject to foreign inspection.
 - b. Protection of Coast Guard personnel. Dependents and others accompanying our forces, Coast Guard personnel, or accompanying U.S. or third country citizens who are present in response to official orders will not be tested or examined by host nation authorities.

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4. c. Protecting the validity of our assurances. Our credibility with host governments depends upon our vigilance in not assigned unscreened or HIV antibody positive individuals to overseas or deployable units. Thoroughness in this regard allows commanding officers to assure host governments that our personnel are unlikely to introduce or spread AIDS.

5. PROCEDURES.

- a. If requested to be specific with respect to the AIDS virus, the Commanding Officer may give the following statement to the host country: "All U.S. Coast Guard personnel are screened for serological evidence of HIV infection. Those with positive serological evidence of HIV infection are medically retired from active duty; they are not assigned to overseas duty or to duty aboard vessels."
- b. Commanding Officers shall ensure that all their personnel have received the HIV antibody test and that the date the test was taken is entered into their health records, in accordance with reference (a). Test results need not be entered into their health record and should not be entered into the yellow International Certificate of Vaccination (PHS-731). Entry of date in this latter form, which is not currently required, might encourage foreign nation health officials to expect HIV test results to be recorded there for all U.S. citizens, whether military or civilian.

6. ACTION. Area and district commanders, commanders of maintenance and logistics commands, Commander, Activities Europe and unit commanding officers shall comply with procedures of this instruction.

/s/ R. R. BOCK
Acting Chief, Office of Health
and Safety